

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-16 stand rejected over the prior art including Akao et al. and Akao et al. in view of Rosen.

By this Response, applicants offer an amendment to the claims canceling all pending claims and introducing a new series of claims that distinguish over the cited art and would narrow the issues for consideration on appeal. Applicants request entry of the amendment and introduction of the new claims.

The new claims are directed to, among other things, a packaging material comprising a plurality of layers, which layers comprise a specified amount of carbon black and light reflecting mineral particles. The plastic layers are all fabricated of the same plastic material. Applicants have discovered that the claimed packaging material achieves a synergistic improvement over the prior art in that the packaging material blocks the transmission of UV light despite incorporating surprisingly small amounts of light absorbing material such as carbon black. Applicants submit that the claimed features are contrary to the teachings of Akao et al, and particularly wherein Akao et al. teach that the various layers of the packaging material must be made of different plastic material having differing properties. See, e.g., column 6, lines 30-40. As a result, applicants submit that the newly interposed claims are patentably distinct from the teaching of the Akao et al. reference, either alone or in combination with Rosen.

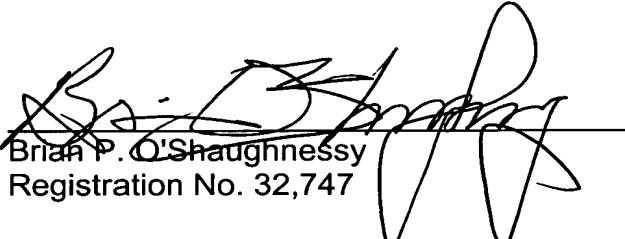
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the instant Reply and Amendment distinguish over the cited reference and are in condition for allowance. Formal notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

If, however, the Examiner perceives any impediments to the issuance of such a notice of allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below. Such informal communication will expedite examination and disposition of the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

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